

fox and fox unions, and in fox and domestic bitch unions. References: 'Field' of 10th January 1942, page 44; 7th February 1942, page 149; 7th March 1942, page 261.

In reference to 7th February 1942 above, it is stated that 'knotting' is not essential for whelp production in all canine unions, and that experienced dog-breeders are aware that 'non-knotted' unions are often productive when both parents are dogs.

It is however probable that in case of practically all wild dog unions and fox unions, and jackal unions 'knotting' takes place, so Nature has not found that 'knotting' is a disadvantage or it would not occur.

It is common knowledge that when a number of male dogs pursue a domestic bitch (such assemblies are often seen in India) the successful suitor is not molested by others of the pack while the mated pair are in a 'knotted' state. That is likely also to be the case with wild dog, and fox, and jackal unions in a wild state'.—Eds.]

#### 8.—SAMBAR GNAWING BARK OF *WENDLANDIA NOTONIANA*

I have always noticed that sambar were partial to the bark of the *Wendlandia notoniana*; but not to the extent as they appear to be on the Biligirirangans this year. It may possibly have been due to the scarcity of grazing, as it has been a very dry season, with all grass burnt by forest fires; but a very large number of trees of this species have been debarked from ground level up to a height of 6 or 7 feet, and even more, with the bark even removed off the lower branches. I wonder if the bark is known to possess any medicinal properties?

HONNAMETTI ESTATE,  
ATTIKAN P.O.,  
VIA MYSORE (S.I.).  
June 3, 1948.

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Colonel.

[In reply to our query Mr. M. B. Raizada, Asst. Forest Botanist, Dehra Dun, writes that as far as he is aware the bark of *Wendlandia notoniana* is not known to possess any medicinal properties. This view is confirmed by officials of the Minor Forest Products section of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.—Eds.]

#### 9.—SAMBAR NECK SORE

I shot a 36" stag today (late for a stag to be in hard horn). Besides having a most pronounced sore the stag's neck was bare except for a ridge of hair on the nape. There was ample evidence that irritation had spread to the sides of the neck causing continual rubbing.